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From Monday March 13. to Thursday March 16. 1698.

By the KING,

A PROCLAMATION

For a GENERAL FAST.

WILLIAM R.

FOR *the Imploring a Bleſſing from Almighty God upon His Majeſty and all His Dominions, and for Averting of thoſe Judgments which our manifold Sins and Provocations have moſt juſtly deſerved; and that God would, in His Great Mercy and Goodneſs, Relieve and Comfort ſuch as Suffer Abroad for the Proteſtant Religion; The King's moſt Excellent Majeſty (by the Advice of His Privy-Counſil) hath thought fit, and doth hereby Appoint and Command, That a General Faſt, and Day of Solemn Humiliation, be Religiouſly Kept and Obſerved throughout His Majeſties Kingdom of* England, *Dominion of* Wales, *and Town of* Berwick *upon* Tweed, *in moſt Devout and Solemn manner, on* Wedneſday *the Fifth Day of* April *next. And for the more Orderly Solemnizing of the ſaid Faſt, His Majeſty hath given Directions to the Right Reverend the Biſhops of this Kingdom, to Compoſe a Form of Prayer ſuitable to this Occaſion, to be uſed in all Churches and Chapels, and other Places of Publick Worſhip, and hath given Charge for the Diſperſing thereof through their ſeveral Dioceſes in the whole Kingdom. And His Majeſty doth moſt ſtrictly Charge and Command, That the ſaid Faſting and Prayers be Soberly, Reverently and Decently Performed by all His Loving Subjects, as they tender the Favour of Almighty God, and upon Pain of receiving ſuch Puniſhment as His Majeſty can juſtly Inflict upon all ſuch as ſhall Contemn or Neglect ſo Religious and Neceſſary a Duty.*

Given at Our Court at *Kenſington* the Twelfth Day of *March*, 1698. In the Eleventh Year of Our Reign.

Cadiz, Feb. 16. N. S. The *Defiance* and *Coventry* Men of War ſailed from hence yeſterday for *Malaga*; and the *Medway*, Capt. *Baker* Commander, is ſent to *Tangier*. Three *Spaniſh* Men of War are now in this Bay, ready to ſail for the *Weſt-Indies* with the firſt fair Wind; they have on Board Don *Pimienta*, the new Governor of *Carthagena*, with a Reinforcement of Men, and ſome Cannon and Ammunition for that Garriſon. It's ſaid, that publick Notice will be given here in few days, that the *Flota* for *New-Spain* will ſail about *Midſummer*; but 'tis yet uncertain, whether any Galeons will be ſent out this year.

Madrid, Feb. 26. The Count *de Harrach*, Ambaſſador from the Emperor, had Publick Audiences of their Catholick Majeſties on the 14th Inſtant, and notified the Marriage of the King of the *Romans* with the Princes *Emilia* of *Hanouer*, upon which here have been, by the King's Order, Illuminations and other Publick Rejoicings for three days together; and on this Occaſion the Imperial Ambaſſador, and Signior *Bini* Envoy Extraordinary from the Duke of *Modena*, have given ſplendid Entertainments to the Foreign Miniſters, and other Perſons of Quality. The Ambaſſador of *Portugal* has acquainted their Catholick Majeſties, that the Queen of *Portugal* was delivered of a Princeſs on the 30th of the laſt Month. On the 17th Inſtant, an Expreſs arrived here from *Flanders* with the ſurprizing News of the Death of the Electoral Prince of *Bavaria*, upon which the Council of State has been ſeveral times aſſembled. On the 24th, the King went to take the Air in the *Prado*, and the Weather being very cold, he found himſelf afterwards much out of order, but his Indiſpoſition was ſoon over, and his Majeſty is very well again. The King has given a Penſion of 6000 Ducats a year to the Widow of Count *Grajales*, late Vice-Roy of *Navarre*. Don *Juan* of *Navarre* is made Grandee of *Spain*. Our laſt Advices from *Ceuta*, which are of the 6th Inſtant, give an Account, that 16 Veſſels lately arrived there with a Supply of Proviſions and Ammunition for the Service of that Garriſon; That the *Spaniards* were making a new Ditch round that Place to defend it the better againſt the Attacks of the *Moors*, who ſtill continue the Siege. The Alcayde, who commands the *Moors*, had ſent a Letter to the *Spaniſh* Governor, to acquaint him, That in caſe the King of *Spain* will appoint ſome Perſons, the Emperor of *Morocco* will do the like on his ſide, to treat of a Peace.

Vienna, March 7. The Body of the late Count *Kinsky* was Interred yeſterday in the Church of the *Capucins*. The Office of Great Chancellor of *Bohemia*, vacant by his Death, is not yet diſpoſed of; but 'tis believed 'twill be given to the Count of *Staremberg* Vice-Chancellor of *Bohemia*, or Count *Martinitz*, who is now Ambaſſador at the Court of *Rome*; And that Count *Harrach*, the Emperor's High Steward, will ſucceed Count *Kinsky* in the Miniſtry. Count *Oxenſtierne*, who reſides at this Court on the part of the King of *Sweden*, being made Governor of the Dutchy of *Deux-Ponts*, will ſhortly take his Audience of Leave, in order to repair to that Government. The Ambaſſador of *Muſcovy* arrived here this week from *Hungary*, and will likewiſe in a few days have his Audience of Leave of the Emperor, intending to return forthwith to *Muſcovy*. Orders have been given to the Commanders of the Imperial Forces, to make exact Liſts of the ſeveral Regiments under their Care, and the Number of Officers and Effective Men in each, and to lay them before the Emperor's Council. Our Letters from *Hungary* confirm, that the *Venetian* Ambaſſador has ſigned the Treaty for a Truce with the *Turks*, and do further adviſe, that the young Count *Straatman*, who was ſent from hence with the Emperor's Ratification of the Treaty of Truce with the Port, arrived at *Kueskemet* the 25th of the laſt Month, and that the Imperial Ambaſſadors having immediately given Notice thereof by

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